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Art Unit: 2114  
Amendment dated December 10, 2004  
Reply to Office Action October 19, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): The sub-system of claim 15, ~~wherein~~ A sub-system comprising:

at least one passive component, said passive component comprises comprising a dispersion compensation module (DCM);

an identification module for storing component information relating to said at least one passive component;

a tester interconnected with said at least one passive component; and

a processor interconnected with said identification module and said tester, said processor for monitoring with said tester whether a performance characteristic for said passive component is within an acceptable tolerance as specified by said component information stored in said identification module, said processor adapted to conduct a trend analysis for said performance characteristic using stored historical performance characteristic information, and in dependence upon said trend analysis, prompt a user to an expected date of failure of said passive component, and said performance characteristic comprises comprising at least one of insertion loss and an average chromatic dispersion value.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~The sub-system of claim 1, wherein~~ A sub-system comprising:

at least one passive component;

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an identification module for storing component information relating to said at least one passive component;

a tester interconnected with said at least one passive component; and

a processor interconnected with said identification module and said tester, said processor for monitoring with said tester whether a performance characteristic for said passive component is within an acceptable tolerance as specified by said component information stored in said identification module, said processor [[is]] adapted to conduct a trend analysis for said performance characteristic using stored historical performance characteristic information, and in dependence upon said trend analysis, recommend a date for re-test of said passive component.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The sub-system of claim 17, wherein said passive component comprises a dispersion compensation module (DCM), and said performance characteristic comprises at least one of insertion loss and an average chromatic dispersion value.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 19~~ A method for facilitating monitoring of a passive component, comprising:

storing component information for said passive component in a non-volatile memory;

installing said non-volatile memory in a sub-system incorporating said passive component;

retrieving specification information for said passive component from said non-volatile

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memory;

sampling an input signal to and an output signal from said passive component;

determining a performance characteristic for said passive component based on said sampling, wherein said passive component comprises a dispersion compensation module (DCM), and said performance characteristic comprises at least one of insertion loss and an average chromatic dispersion value;

comparing said performance characteristic with said retrieved specification information to determine whether said performance characteristic is within an acceptable tolerance of said specification information; and

conducting a trend analysis for said performance characteristic using stored historical performance characteristic information, and in dependence upon said trend analysis, prompting a user to an expected date of failure of said passive component.

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 11, further~~ A method for facilitating monitoring of a passive component, comprising:

storing component information for said passive component in a non-volatile memory;

installing said non-volatile memory in a sub-system incorporating said passive component;

retrieving specification information for said passive component from said non-volatile memory;

sampling an input signal to and an output signal from said passive component;

determining a performance characteristic for said passive component based on said sampling;

comparing said performance characteristic with said retrieved specification information

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to determine whether said performance characteristic is within an acceptable tolerance of said specification information; and

conducting a trend analysis for said performance characteristic using stored historical performance characteristic information, and in dependence upon said trend analysis, recommending a date for re-test of said passive component.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said passive component comprises a dispersion compensation module (DCM), and said performance characteristic comprises at least one of insertion loss and an average chromatic dispersion value.